

**1993 CAIRO DECLARATION ON THE OCCASION OF THE THIRTIETH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY**

1. We, the OAU Heads of State and Government while celebrating the Thirtieth Anniversary of the OAU, recall with pride and esteem the historical role of the founding fathers of the Organization, their wisdom, clear vision and the historical heritage they bequeathed to us.
2. They had indeed been in the forefront of the historical achievements of the National Liberation Movements and in the vanguard of the struggle against colonialism and racial discrimination. By founding the OAU within the framework of interaction between civilizations and institutional unity despite the cultural, linguistic, religious and national diversity. This is the everlasting great heritage which shall always guide us in our future endeavours.
3. To them we express our gratitude and appreciation. We also salute the peoples of Africa as a whole, particularly the gallant freedom fighters for their sacrifices and efforts in the struggle for freedom, equality, prosperity and development.
4. The Thirtieth Anniversary provides an opportunity for us to ponder over the experiences of the past and look forward with hope, determination and optimism to the day when the leaders of Africa will meet once again to celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the OAU in 20 years time.
5. A positive projection of Africa's future requires the assessment of its past performance as well as the achievements and its shortcomings and the difficulties it has encountered. It also requires from us the renewal of our common determination and will to face the current challenges. We have indeed made achievements and with regard to the obstacles and the challenges, they have been identified in the resolutions we have adopted at various gatherings and in the declarations and other relevant documents in which our vision and strategies geared

towards the achievements of our goals and objectives, are elaborated. We are also committed to the adoption of common positions by consensus and to the continental unity of our peoples and nations who live in different regions, territories and islands with diverse cultural backgrounds.

6. These documents in their entirety reflect our view on such issues as independence, security, cooperation, development, economic integration, the need for collective self-reliance in achieving the overall development of our continent, promotion of human and peoples rights and our ability to foresee the trend of the fundamental changes taking place in our contemporary world in the political and economic fields as well as in the area of information and communication between peoples and nations. We have also, with strong conviction, arrived at a series of firm agreements on Africa's economic development plans, signed the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community and always followed with concern Africa's economic situation including external debt crisis as well as our adverse multilateral trade relations.

7. While doing so, we have not lost sight of the activities and immense contributions made by our men and women of wisdom and intellect and the efforts of the continent's various organizations and institutions in this regard. Those men and women have indeed shared with us their thoughts and views on issues relating to security, stability, democracy and peace. Their contributions will be a source of pride for future generations and will form an integral part of the reservoir of global intellectual heritage acquired through international cooperation on the basis of equality, mutual respect, solidarity and peaceful co-existence. We believe that the communities of our various continents should have a collective role in shaping the future of the world without marginalization or discrimination against any given society or culture.

8. Despite the fundamental changes that have taken place in the post independence era, and more particularly since the end of the cold war, there is still the need for establishing a close link between development, democracy, security and stability in the years ahead as the most ideal formula for fulfilling the legitimate

aspirations of the peoples of Africa to a decent life, progress and social justice. This formula will enable us solve gradually the acute socio-economic and political problems facing the African Continent. It will also serve as a proper framework for the preservation of the diverse nature of our nations and societies and further enhancement of the fraternal ties that exist between our States.

9. By signing the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community at our meeting in Abuja in 1991, we have agreed on a Pan-African framework that defines the principles and objectives of African integration in the years ahead. It equally defines the areas of cooperation, coordination of activities and exchange of experiences at the national, regional and continental levels and also among regional organizations and groupings through the common will and action of the OAU, ECA and the ADB.

10. The Thirtieth Anniversary being celebrated at the threshold of the 21st century is an occasion for us to think about the future of the African peoples and nations vis-a-vis the far-reaching changes taking place in the fields of science, technology and communications.

11. We therefore renew our commitment to the principles and values of popular participation in the process of governance and democratic transformation as well as the emphasis on rectitude and accountability on the part of all those who hold public office and the principle of participation in politics by all our citizens, especially women and the youth.

12. The OAU Charter, the international declarations and instruments on human rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights all stipulate that the realisation of freedom, justice and human dignity are the legitimate aspirations of all peoples. Therefore, we undertake to promote the rights and freedoms of our peoples and to enhance the democratic values, ideals and institutions of our States in cultural, social, linguistic and religious diversity and on the basis of respect for the sovereignty of all African States as spelt out in the OAU Charter as well as respect for their political and socio-economic options.

13. The achievement of the objectives of development, integration, democratic

transformation and the strengthening of the democratic institutions, requires peace and stability not only at the internal level but also among African States and in their relations with the outside world.

14. Security and stability have always been our priority concern at the national, regional and continental levels for the achievement of development and integration in the socio-economic and cultural fields in accordance with the aspirations of our governments and peoples so that Africa could become a safe continent, free of weapons of mass destruction and free of all threats and pressures. The establishment of peace and security will not only lead to the reduction of defence expenditure, but will also enable us redirect our resources towards raising the level of production and services, augmenting the living standards of our peoples, creating more job opportunities and achieving economic growth and development. Furthermore, the establishment of peace and security will enable us solve the problems of refugees and displaced persons, settle the existing conflicts of the continent and put an end to the blood-bath and the arms race with all their concomitant devastating socio-economic and political consequences.

15. We have agreed at our Dakar meeting of 1992 that the continuation of the various conflicts in the African continent has an adverse effect on the continent's security, stability and economic development. As a result; we have renewed our determination to work in unison for the peaceful resolution of all our conflicts and stressed the urgent need for Africa to take the appropriate steps for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts within the framework of the OAU and in consonance with the principles and objectives of its Charter.

16. Finally, the future of Africa, its security and progress are linked with those of the entire world. At a time when the international relations are being re-shaped, Africa cannot but as of right, participate in that exercise as a continent whose States form more than one quarter of the membership of the international community of nations, a Continent with immense wealth, potential, market and culture and a population of some 700 million.

17. We look forward to the future with confidence and call upon our peoples to

proceed steadily and triumphantly towards ushering in an era of cooperation and solidarity that will enable them to effectively take part in the process of shaping the new world; the world of the 21st Century.

1993 Cairo Declaration On The Occasion Of The Thirtieth Anniversary Of The Organization Of African Unity

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